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### Special Analysis

#### RWANDA: Ethnic Conflict Threatens Regional Stability

*Inconclusive fighting and the uncertain prospects for a negotiated settlement portend a prolonged stalemate between the Rwandan Army and rebel invaders, a development that would fuel ethnic tensions and destabilize the region.* [REDACTED]

The standoff between the Army and forces of the Rwandan Patriotic Front continues in the northeast, some 80 kilometers from Kigali. Rebel supply lines extend into Uganda where Tutsi refugees and some elements of the Ugandan Army apparently have provided support despite Kampala's efforts to control the border. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, France and Belgium have provided military supplies to the Rwandan Army and have sent some troops to protect their nationals and secure the airport. [REDACTED] Zairian troops were withdrawn by 18 October after an ineffective and undisciplined performance. [REDACTED]

Diplomatic initiatives led by Belgium, Ugandan President Museveni, and other regional leaders are under way to defuse the conflict. The two sides are far apart but have agreed in principle to a cease-fire and a regional conference on the repatriation of some 500,000 Tutsi refugees. (C NF)

Achieving a diplomatic solution probably will be difficult because of the lack of a neutral mediator; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Museveni is suspected of favoring Tutsi interests. Museveni and Rwandan President Habyarimana also must avoid alienating key domestic constituencies. Museveni wants to retain the loyalty of the roughly 15 percent of his Army who come from the Rwandan refugee community, and Habyarimana wants to appear flexible on the refugee issue without undermining his mostly Hutu power base. Neighboring states are pressing for a resolution of the refugee problem, but repatriation, primarily from Uganda and Burundi, would overwhelm Rwanda's resources and aggravate ethnic hostility. [REDACTED]

Neither side is likely to gain enough outside help for a decisive military victory. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A prolonged diplomatic and military stalemate would further weaken Habyarimana and give his military opponents an excuse to replace him. It would also increase the likelihood of ethnic tensions erupting into regional violence that would greatly increase the number of refugees. [REDACTED]

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